

**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL MEETING OF THE  
WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Chelan, Washington  
June 29, 2005**

The local jurisdiction meeting of the Washington State Transportation Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on June 29, 2005, at Best Western Lakeside Lodge, 2312 W Woodin Avenue, Chelan, Washington.

Commissioners present at the meeting were: Chair Dale Stedman, Dick Ford, Ed Barnes, Bob Distler, Elmira Forner, Michele Maher and Dan O'Neal.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Stedman opened the meeting with introductions of Commission members. He welcomed community participants and Secretary MacDonald, WSDOT. Secretary MacDonald commented on local projects.

**OVERVIEW OF KEY TRANSPORTATION ISSUES FOR CHELAN**

Mayor, Jay Witherbee, City of Chelan, welcomed the Commission to Chelan. He pointed out that the transportation needs for the City of Chelan and Chelan Valley.

**UPDATE ON TRANSPORTATION IN NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON**

Dan Sarles, Assistant Region Administrator for Engineering, North Central Region, WSDOT, briefed the Commission regarding the region's current transportation projects underway. He also shared highlights of proposed projects. He noted that there is a lot of freight movement on the corridor which conflicts with economic vitality. He moved on to discuss regional projects, some of which are included, in the Washington Transportation Plan.

Buell Hawkins, County Commissioner and Greg Pezoldt, County Engineer, indicated that there are funding gaps for rural roads. They explained existing funding sources, placing emphasis on existing grants, noting that funding for rural roads is out of sync in many situations.

**CRITICAL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES FOR THE REGION**

Jeff Wilkens, Executive Director, North Central Region Transportation Planning Organization and Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council explained the parallel roles of the RTPO and the Council. He also noted that there are aging rail cars and how this impacts his business. Preservation, maintenance and safety need to be at the top of the list. He introduced Port of Chelan Economic Development Director Ron Johnston-Rodriguez.

Mr. Rodriguez provided an overview of the guiding principals for future visions in Chelan County. He shared information regarding future funding and what the problems are.

## **TRANSIT NEEDS FOR RURAL WASHINGTON**

Nick Covey, Finance and Facilities Manager, Link Transit and Todd Daniel, Link Transit, described transit needs in the county. He noted that they are in the process of working on grants with WSDOT.

## **PUBLIC AND LEGISLATOR COMMENT PERIOD**

Mayor Devany, Town of Waterville, shared information regarding local street projects and how difficult it has been to obtain funding for street projects.

Jay Kehne and Angela Larson, NCW EDD Project Selection Committee, briefed the Commission regarding project proposals and economic development throughout the region with a primary focus on Highway 97. They noted that they are hopeful that grants can be secured for all projects in the region.

Mayor Wyles, City of Leavenworth, provided information regarding local projects.

Ray & Jessie O'Neal, citizens, shared her concerns regarding traffic congestion and safety issues on Highway 150.

## **TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

John Stensgar and Mary Beth Clark, Colville Tribal Business Council, briefed the Commission regarding tribal transportation issues. Ms. Clark explained the tribe's participation in Tribal Transportation Improvement Plans and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations as well as the Washington Transportation Plan.

## **SMALL CITY TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

### **Central Avenue Bridge, Omak**

Mayor Dale Sparber, City of Omak and Kurt Danison, City Contract Planner, Highlands Associates, shared their concerns regarding the Central Avenue Bridge. It has been identified that the bridge is a transportation bottleneck and too narrow for today's safety standards. The City of Omak has requested that WSDOT provide assistance in preliminary scoping of the removal and replacement of the bridge.

### **Highway 150, Chelan**

Brett La Mar, President, Manson Business Association and Dan Hodge, Director, Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, shared information regarding the unprecedented growth that has resulted in major safety, congestion and freight mobility concerns in the area. He provided an overview of sidewalk expansion along the highway.

## **FREIGHT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN CHELAN**

Chris Branch, Planning and Community Development Director, Cities of Oroville and Tonasket and Charlie Pomianek, Secretary/Manager, Wenatchee Valley Traffic Association,

briefed the Commission regarding issues surrounding economic development in the area. Mr. Pomianek shared information regarding produce shippers and tree fruit growers. He noted that the industry has an immense impact on Washington's economy.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m., on June 29, 2005.

**WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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DALE STEDMAN, Chair

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DAN O'NEAL, Vice-Chair

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EDWARD BARNES, Member

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ROBERT S. DISTLER, Member

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ELMIRA FORNER, Member

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MICHELE MAHER, Member

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DICK FORD, Member

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DOUGLAS MACDONALD, Ex-Officio Member  
Secretary of Transportation

ATTEST:

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REEMA GRIFFITH, Administrator

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DATE OF APPROVAL

\* Commissioner Maher's term expired June 30, 2005